

Advisory Council on Aging
April 14, 2011
Mountainland Association of Governments
586 East 800 North
Orem, UT

CONDUCTING: Mayor James Hadfield

ATTENDING:	Lyndia Carter	Marianne Christensen	Heidi DeMarco
	Steve Farrell	Doug Hardy	Melanie Haws
	Karl Hirst	Ralph Horne	Lois Kelson
	Neil Kuhner	Stephen Mahoney	Anita Lewis
	Scott McBeth	Jay Dee Nielsen	Ted Strong
	Doug Witney	Lopinni Wolfgramm	

GUESTS: Stephanie Benson Maurine Lindsay Rhoda Stauffer

EXCUSED: Judy Seegmiller

Mayor James Hadfield welcomed the members of the Advisory Council on Aging to the meeting. Steve Farrell offered the opening prayer remarks. Mayor Hadfield led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Council reviewed the minutes from the March 10, 2011 meeting. It was noted that a correction needed to be made to the first paragraph of the minutes. It should have read **Ralph Horne offered the opening prayer remarks. Mayor Hadfield led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.** Ralph Horne motioned to accept the minutes as they were presented with the exception of the noted correction. Steve Farrell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION AGENDA

Tax Abatement Program Update

Scott McBeth reported that Community Action Services and Food Bank would no longer provide tax abatement assistance known as the Circuit Breaker Program. Community Action Services and Food Bank have provided this service for Utah County residents for over twenty years. The Mountainland Aging and Family Services Department (MAFSD) have agreed to facilitate the program. Two or three people will be hired to fill this requirement.

Commissioner Witney stated that Utah County would continue to support the program. He has hired an individual that will be stationed at the Utah County Court House to serve as a contact person and to assist individuals that walk-in.

Mayor Hadfield said that he recently attended the Council of Governments meeting where the budget for Community Action Services and Food Bank was being approved. He stated that he would not approve their budget if they did not continue providing services to seniors.

Four-Year Area Plan

Heidi DeMarco gave the Council a handout of the Area Plan Budget Funding Summary for July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012. She reported that there has been a \$120,000 reduction in state and federal funding and that MAFSD service levels will remain the same. Heidi reviewed the Area Plan Program Objectives attached in the agenda packet.

Scott McBeth stated that he was in Washington D.C. recently and that there is no interest in talking about senior programs. The Older Americans Act is up for reauthorization this year, which will not take place because of the current budget issues. He stated that changes and reductions made by the federal government would affect services for the next decade.

Commissioner Witney asked if service priorities should be established to prepare for the proposed budget cuts. Scott McBeth said services have been prioritized in the past and may need to be revisited. Scott said the federal government may give the state money to distribute and oversee.

Anita Lewis said it would be helpful for Summit County to know if service reductions will take place so the county can contribute where needed. Scott said he would inform her of any reductions.

Lyndia Carter motioned to approve the FY2012 Area Plan and the budget with the understanding that there may be slight adjustments to the budget as it is finalized. Doug Hardy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Aging Department Website

Scott McBeth reported that the Mountainland Aging and Family Services Department recently updated their website and demonstrated its features to the Council.

Meals-on-Wheels and More Donation Letter

Stephanie Benson reported that the next Meals-on-Wheels and More donation letter will be sent out in May. She gave the Council a draft of the letter and stated that she took the feedback from the last letter and tried to incorporate in-home services more. The intent of the letter is to be clearer about where the donation is going, and to make people feel sympathetic about the senior's situation.

Commissioner Witney asked to whom the donation letters will be mailed to. Stephanie said it is sent to approximately 20,000 homeowners over the age of forty in Summit, Utah and Wasatch counties, including households who have previously donated to a charity.

Anita Lewis recommended that the letter state that donations made will be used locally.

Stephanie Benson asked the Council for their input as she continues to draft the letter.

Mayors for Meals Event

Stephanie Benson showed the Council the Meals-on-Wheels Facebook page spotlighting the Mayors for Meals event that was held March 23, 2011. She explained that the Mayors for Meals event is part of the National March for Meals sponsored for Meals on Wheels of America. More than 1500 Mayors and elected officials delivered meals throughout the country.

In Utah County Mayor Hadfield, Mayor Wilson, Mayor Washburn and Mayor Curtis participated and delivered meals with a volunteer Meals-on-Wheels driver. The Meals-on-Wheels clients were contacted the day before so they would be aware of what was taking place. The event received news coverage from The Daily Herald, Channel 17 and The Daily Universe, including publicity on Mayor Cutis' popular blog.

Stephanie said she had three goals for the event: raise awareness about the Meals-on-Wheels program, show our elected officials what MAG does and the clients being served, and provide an extra treat for the clients. With the success of this event, MAG wants to expand and include mayors and county commissioners in every city where Meals-on-Wheels is delivered.

In-the-News

Heidi DeMarco gave the Council handouts of the Mayors for Meals article from The Daily Herald and the Daily Universe and the spring 2011 Meals-on-Wheels newsletter and calendar.

Other

Mayor Hadfield asked the Council to give a report for their area.

Commissioner Witney gave the Council a handout of a brochure he and his staff created titled *Help Stop Elderly Exploitation*. The intent of the brochure is to educate seniors and caregivers on the signs of fraud and exploitation, including how to avoid becoming a victim. He asked the Council for their comments and suggestions and said he will incorporate them into the final draft. The brochure will be available for anyone to use, and can be edited to meet the needs of a specific population.

Mayor Hadfield reported that Utah County Health Department is sponsoring a prescription disposal event at five locations on April 30, 2011.

Ralph Horne reported that he referred two individuals from the Orem Senior Center to the Mountainland Aging Department. He said the individuals needed information and support regarding aging issues, which was taken care of in a professional manner.

Neil Kuhner reported that on April 25, 2011 the AARP/Walgreens Wellness Tour will provide free health screenings to seniors at the Walgreen's store located in Pleasant Grove from 12-6. Screenings will include blood glucose, cholesterol, blood pressure, body mass index, bone density, and waist circumference.

Lyndia Carter said she is pleased that the Mountainland Aging Department is focusing on loneliness and isolation among seniors. She expressed concern that many seniors in the community are not receiving the support and assistance they need.

Maureen Lindsay said that at the previous meeting, she reported that her computer at the Pleasant Grove Senior Center was running very slow. She stated that Mountainland staff came and resolved the issues the next day.

Doug Hardy reported that the Lehi Senior Center is replacing carpet in the dining area and will be closed for a few days. Individuals from the center are going to the Pleasant Grove and American Fork senior centers until the installation is finished.

Heidi DeMarco thanked the Council for their input and support.

Lopini Wolfgramm from Utah Valley Paratransit introduced himself and reported that they provide transportation to most senior centers in Utah County, and to persons with disabilities.

Karl Hirst reported that the Orem Cultural Arts is presenting a ribbon cutting ceremony on April 23, 2011 to unveil the new performing arts stage.

Maureen Lindsay asked when Lindon will open their new senior center. Scott McBeth said it depends on when they get the contract finalized, but it may be as soon as June 6, 2011.

The meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be held May 12, 2011 at the Mountainland office in Orem, UT.